

Marines SCUTTLEBUTT

Body Armor v Going to the *Dogs*



They may take a bite out of crime, but thanks to some new protection, nobody can take a bite out of them.

That's right, military police dogs like Fido and Rex are now issued doggy-tailored body armor worthy of such "devil dogs."

The new K-9 operations vests, weighing in at seven

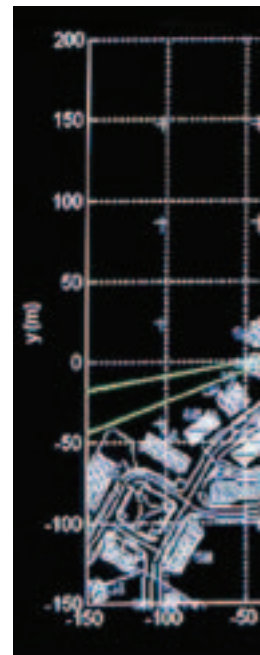
pounds, are made of woven Kevlar fiber and soft body armor panels. Manufactured to the same standards as human body armor, the vests protect against small arms fire and stab wounds and are durable enough to take multiple hits to the same area.

Talk about high-tech, they even come with air-condition-

ing—sort of. Removable cold packs inside the vests help military working dogs keep cool under fire. Well maybe not under fire, but the cold packs do cool the dogs down in extreme climates such as the Middle East.

While military dogs everywhere are sure to appreciate the cool packs, they may not be so thrilled with some of the additional features, like straps that allow dog handlers to rappel or parachute with their dogs.

But, at \$1,000 dollars each, these canine vests are a pretty wise investment for the Corps to protect animals on which it spends about \$60,000 to raise, feed and train. **M**



'Sniper Patrol'

▼ Hide and Seek Redux!



What if... you could pinpoint hostile gunfire or enemy sniper hangouts and instantly share the location of the enemy with all of the friendly forces in your area? That afternoon trip through the gauntlet to the local town meeting may not be so bad after all. And steering clear of would-be killers is definitely a plus.

The 'sniper detector' system, named Boomerang, was developed through the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency and can deter-

mine the bullet type, trajectory, and point of fire of unknown shooter locations.

The system uses microphone sensors to detect both the muzzle blast and the sonic shock wave that emanate from a high-speed bullet. Sensors detect, classify, localize and display the results on a map immediately after the shot. The system sensors are mounted on Humvees atop an aluminum pole and pick up supersonic shock waves.

A cigarette box-sized display on the dashboard or wind-

shield then shows the findings. All the sensors are networked to provide 3-D simulated battlefields and peer into what's happening on other systems throughout the area.

Specs state that the system can pinpoint a shot up to 100 meters away in a small window opening—even if the sniper is using a silencer. Adapted versions of the system will allow it to be personnel mounted as well.

Just one more way to make those mean streets a little more friendly. **M**

'Go-Faster'

▼ Injuries Impeded by Millipede

San Diego recruits are sporting new "go-fasters," which may soon replace the 10-year-old camouflaged Asics running shoe now favored by Marine Corps recruit depots.

For those who thought there wasn't much science involved in designing running shoes, the red-trimmed silver and gray Millipede, made by the fledgling company Millipede, says otherwise. The design of a shoe may reduce knee injuries and stress fractures at the depot, two common complaints among recruits after numerous hours spent marching, drilling, hiking and just plain walking everywhere.

It all revolves around control. Unlike Asics, the Millipedes control the foot from the inside, not the outside.

Just to make the process even more scientific, recruit foot types are matched to running shoe soles. The Millipede's removable insoles come in a variety of sizes. Representatives from the company come and test each recruit's foot with a computer. Each recruit steps on a computerized mat, which scans feet for normal arches, high arches or flat feet. Appropriate insoles are issued accordingly.

They don't come in high top, but mid tops are available



for recruits who are overweight or have ankle or shin problems, and every one else gets low tops.

But don't get too excited,

recruits, these shoes are heavier than most running shoes to provide the necessary durability to last through recruit training. **M**

Darkness Beware, ▼ *The Fire-Warrior is Here*

A afraid of the dark? How about being in total darkness AND a burning building—scared now? Fear not, thanks to a small, high-tech thermal imaging device called the Fire-Warrior.

The cameras, which were purchased from a company called Morning Pride and cost about \$12,000 each, make Marines' jobs less harmful. That's paramount. Identifying 'hot spots' in a burning building is good too. But, heck, the camera can even help find a warm cup of coffee.

Weighing in at under a pound, this 3 inch by 3 inch helmet mounted camera allows Marines to shorten

search and rescue times and navigate in total darkness. Running on only AA batteries the tiny device can actually see heat, picking up on different areas of temperature.

The result? Everything becomes visible from handprints, to a downed pilot, to a person trapped on the other side of a smoke filled room. Victim search times are cut by more than 50 percent, people can be located from aircraft instead of lengthy foot searches and rescuers are less likely to get injured



or killed by burning hazards.

The camera may be small in size, but it helps save lives and that's huge. **M**

Small-Unit Leaders ▼ *Talk to the Palm*



In answer to the age-old question of what to give a Marine who has everything, Marine Corps Systems Command introduces the D-DACT, or Dismounted Data

Automated Communications Terminal. A "Swiss Army knife" of communications technology, the D-DACT is the Marine Corps' battlefield version of the handheld computer.

The D-DACT is a leap forward in battlefield communications and navigation technology, built to withstand the most rugged field conditions. It weighs just 31 ounces and is designed to perform key field communications functions and it even interfaces with a global positioning system to provide real-time reports on troop and threat locations to higher commands and other units.

Coming soon to a field near you, the D-DACT also

offers a tactical radio; functions as a digital mapping device; can load, store and display a variety of military maps in a variety of formats and sizes, including 1:1,000,000 through 1:25,000 scales, and can be used to sketch battlefield overlays.

So, what can't the D-DACT do? Camp Pendleton's 5th Marine Regiment is in the field now, doing final tests to find the answer to that question. If it lives up to the claims and is approved for purchase, initial distribution of 561 devices to I Marine Expeditionary Force may begin as soon as October.

So this Christmas, *Marines* knows what we want in our stocking. **M**

'Big Brother' Knows Where You Are

San Diego Recruit Depot Motor T' is now backseat driving its fleet, er...uh managing its fleet of government cars through the wonders of the Global Positioning System.

The system, which installs in about 20 minutes, connects with a vehicle's diagnostics system and uses a GPS uplink to tell the folks back home where the vehicle is, how healthy it's running and even how fast it's going. Drivers with a lead foot beware, "big brother" will know who's speeding and who's not.

One bonus of the system

is help for the wayward driver. Those who get lost have someone who will know where they are, down to the exact address, a handy feature for deterring car thieves as well. Rounding out the list is a bonus any driver who has ever broken down in a "govie" will appreciate, roadside assistance.

Authorized personnel manage the system through the online connection www.networkcar.com. If a vehicle is tracked somewhere it shouldn't be or is going too fast, the driver's supervisor will receive a printed report



for disciplinary measures.

The Navy Region Southwest hopes to eventually extend this feature to its larger trucks and buses. **M**

Goodbye Paper Trail, Government Travel Goes Online



Got Travelocity? Expedia? The next welcome addition to the cornucopia of online travel sites is now available — the Defense Travel System.

No more lengthy travel claim process! Shorter paper trail! With the new and improved online system, travelers on government orders can make travel arrangements right from the desktop. And aside from making commercial air, hotel and car rentals reservations, travel requests can be sent for approval and provide a printed voucher for settling the travel claim once the comfy TAD trip is complete.

The fully web enabled system will save the Department of Defense money, and enable a much more speedy way of

handling travel, down to the lowest levels.

The catch? Although travelers won't need to complete travel requests, they will create their own travel documents as long as they have been issued a Public Key Infrastructure Certificate. The certificate allows them to sign the request with an electronic signature. Once the document is signed, it will automatically route to an authorizing official, who will process it to the Defense Finance and Accounting Services office for payment. If travelers don't have a PKI certificate, designated staff with PKI credentials can enter the request for them.

Now, if we can just get those first class upgrades. **M**

SHORT COUNT

500 – Approximate miles I Marine Expeditionary Force Headquarters Group traveled from Kuwait staging areas to Forward Operating Base St. Mere, Iraq, March 8-11. It was the longest convoy in the unit's history.

350 – 11th Marine Expeditionary Unit Marines conducted TRUE or "Training in an Urban Environment" exercise at various locations in Phoenix March 1-14.

20 – March 2004 date that 1st Marine Division assumed responsibility for portions of Al Anbar Province in Iraq from elements of Army's 82nd Airborne Division.

84 – Units of blood were collected from Marine Corps Recruit Depot personnel during a quarterly blood drive March 12.

600 – Boxes of Girl Scout cookies sent to troops in Korea and Iraq thanks to the efforts of Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni, Japan, Girl Scouts.

50 – Cents is deducted out of every Marine's paycheck every month for the Armed Forces Retirement Home, which helps more than 1,600 military veterans enjoy their retired lives.

59 – Years have passed since the battle of Iwo Jima was fought.

1942 – Year the Women Marines Reserve was approved.

5 – Team Marines NASCAR Busch Series driver Bobby Hamilton, Jr. placing in the Sam's Town 300 in Las Vegas March 6.

25,000 – Marines are in the Iraq/Kuwait region.

1945 – Year Gunnery Sgt. John Basilone was killed in action on Red Beach II on Iwo Jima.

134 – Miles in length of the Oahu Perimeter Run relay race. It's the longest race on the Hawaiian island and was run by a team of seven Marines March 5.

